

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Anwar and Rep. McCarthyVahey, Vice-Chairs Sen. Kushner, Sen. Marx and Rep. Parker, Ranking Members Sen. Somers and Rep. Klarides-Ditria, and Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee:

**Testimony in support of General Assembly Raised Bill No. 1076:**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING AID IN DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS.**  
Hearing Date February 27 at 10 am.

I strongly support this bill and urge you to please pass it without further delays.

Medical aid in dying is a practice proven by decades of experience in authorized states. In 40+ years of combined evidence and cumulative data from the laws passed in 11 jurisdictions [Oregon (1994), Washington (2008), Montana (2009), Vermont (2013), California (2015), Colorado (2016), the District of Columbia (2016), Hawai'i (2018), New Jersey (2019), Maine (2019) and New Mexico (2021)]; there is not a single substantiated case of abuse or coercion nor any civil or criminal charges filed related to the practice.

Medical aid in dying improves end-of-life care. Studies show palliative ("comfort") care improves for patients — and families — in states with medical aid in dying.

**Aid in dying accelerates a death process that has already begun; it is available only when imminent death is the only certainty.**

I love the quality of life in our beautiful state of CT; I wish to live here for the rest of my life and want to make sure that at the end I can still preserve my bodily autonomy and my dignity. Don't you?

Respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

Joelle Berger  
Westport